

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated September 15, 2004, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,002,411 (Dye) and U.S. Patent No. 5,818,464 (Wade).

Claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15-18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 without disclaimer. Applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 17 to further clarify the invention. Claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15-18 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dye and Wade. Applicants have canceled these claims, therefore, rendering these rejections moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15-18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended the claims of the present application in accordance with the Examiner's remarks.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15-18 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 503.35686CX3).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.



Frederick D. Bailey
Registration No. 42,282

FDB/sdb
(703) 684-1120